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AUSTRIAN VISIT BY NICOLAE CEAUSESCU, PRESIDENT
OF THE STATE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA

At the invitation of Franz Jonas, Federal President of the Republic of Austria, Nicolae Ceaușescu, President of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Romania and his wife Elena Ceaușescu, paid an official visit to Austria, between September 21 and 25, 1970.

The State Council President and the officials accompanying him visited the Austrian capital city of Vienna, Kaprun, Salzburg and Linz, industrial enterprises and cultural establishments of these localities. A cordial welcome was extended everywhere to the distinguished Romanian guests. The President of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Romania and the Federal President of the Republic of Austria had official talks, which proceeded in an atmosphere of mutual friendship and understanding.

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TOAST BY PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU AT OFFICIAL DINNER

(September 21, 1970)

Dear Mr. President,
Dear Mme Jonas,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank you most cordially, on my own behalf, of behalf of my wife and of my associates, for the invitation to visit Austria, for the hospitality you extend to us, to express our satisfaction of being the guests of your beautiful country.

We have answered with great pleasure this invitation which gives us the opportunity to directly get acquainted with some of the achievements of contemporary Austria, with the concerns of a people enjoying much esteem and valuation in our homeland for the valuable contribution it has made and continues to make to enriching mankind's patrimony of civilization and culture.

We are glad, Mr. President, to have the possibility of developing the fruitful dialogue we have started on your visit to Romania last year, of which I keep most pleasant memories. We are convinced that, during the talks we shall have, during the official meetings and negotiations during our visit here, fresh possibilities and prospects for the expansion and intensification of the Romanian-Austrian cooperation relations will be brought to the fore. The rapid progress the two countries are registering in the economic and social life is the objective premise for the ascending evolution of the many-sided cooperation between Romania and Austria.

Romania is faced at present with an ample programme aimed at accelerating the development of the productive forces of the country, at increasing the national wealth and raising the population's living standards. The entire Romanian people is convincingly and resolutely involved in this work, inspired by the will to liquidate this very year the consequences of the calamities which befell our homeland last spring. In this connection, I would like, dear Mr. President, to convey to you once again, to the Austrian Government and people heartfelt thanks for the moral and material support given to the flood-stricken population of Romania. We viewed the support received from Austria and from other states as an expression of the feelings of sympathy for the Romanian people, of valuation of the policy of peace and understanding promoted by the Socialist Republic of Romania.

We are aware of the fact that the constructive goals of our people, just as those of the other peoples, can only be attained within a climate of trust and peace. It is precisely therefore, that the consolidation of peace and cooperation is a central, permanent target of Romania's policy. We develop our relations with all the countries, irrespective of their social system, and actively militate for the promotion in inter-state relations of the principles of national independence and sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, equal rights and mutual advantage, for the firm establishment of the norms of international law. The relations between the Socialist Republic of Romania and the Republic of Austria are a live illustration of the usefulness of mutually advantageous cooperation between countries with different social systems, and powerfully confirm the efficiency of the relations which are fully founded on the fertile ground of these norms.

We are convinced that more favourable conditions exist at present for the development of cooperation and the achievement of European security. An example in this connection is the Treaty concluded between the U.S.S.R. and the Federal Republic of Germany, which is of a special importance not only for the relations between the two countries, but also for the improvement of the European political climate as a whole.

The same as you, we believe that within the efforts for détente and peace, the convening of an All-European Conference has an important role. Romania, which perseveringly acts along this line, evinces interest in the constructive proposals laid down in the Memorandum of the Austrian Government; we are ready to do everything, together with the other states concerned, for the attainment of this desideratum.

We are convinced that the development of good relations in the Danubian zone - where our countries are situated - as well as in any region of Europe, is of a nature to favourably influence the prospects of peace on the whole continent. Romania's efforts for the creation of a zone of good neighbourhood and cooperation in the Balkans proceed along the same line.

While noting the emergence in today's world of tendencies towards détente, we cannot, however forget that the flames of war are still burning in various parts of the Globe, that a series of peoples continue to be the victims of the policy of domination and dictate, that the efforts of colonial subjugation have not fully disappeared. Romania speaks out most firmly against any act of threat or use of force in international life, for the cessation of the war in Vietnam and for the observance of the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian peoples' right to decide their own fate.

We are particularly worried about the continuous aggravation of the situation in the Near East. Romania

Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Rudolf Kirchschläger, Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, signed the Consular Convention between Romania and Austria. It was agreed to continue negotiations for perfecting the additional document concerning the extension of the convention of legal assistance to the extra-judicial acts and social insurance acts.

The chief object of the exchanges of opinions on the international situation were the problems concerning European security. It has been noted with satisfaction that the present evolution offers encouraging prospects for a genuine détente on the continent. In the opinion of the two sides, there are better premises at present for the realisation of a European Conference on security and cooperation. They appreciated the actions undertaken along this line by different countries and in this context exchanged views on their own efforts, inclusive of the memorandum of the Federal Austrian Government. The two sides will further try to contribute, together with all the states interested, to the preparation of such a conference in a constructive and realistic spirit.

The two sides expressed their conviction that refraining from the threat or use of force in international relations, observance of the principles of national sovereignty and independence, equal rights, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual advantage, are essential premises for the creation of an atmosphere of trust among peoples.

They pointed to the responsibility incumbent on all the states in the maintenance of world peace and in solving the international issues, stressing in this respect the steadily growing role played in international life by the small and medium-sized states. The two sides are of the opinion that the achievement of concrete progress on the line of disarmament, on a regional level included,

would favourably influence international peace, security and cooperation. In this respect, they stressed the importance they attach to nuclear disarmament.

Spotlighting the tense situation in Indochina, the two sides spoke up for the political settlement of the conflict on the basis of the Geneva agreements, for guaranteeing the inalienable right of the peoples in that region to decide their own future, without outside interference.

The two sides expressed their profound anxiety in connection with the continuous worsening of the situation in the Near East, which can have serious consequences on world peace. They declared themselves for the immediate cessation of the fights and stressed the necessity of a solution to be found for the liquidation of the conflict, on the basis of the U.N. Security Council Resolution of November 1967, which should lead to the achievement of a lasting and genuine peace by the observance of the legitimate rights of all the peoples in that area.

The two sides stressed the necessity of an enhanced U.N. role in the strengthening of international peace, security and legality, in the development of multilateral cooperation among states. They also stressed the necessity of a strict observance of the principles of the U.N. Charter, so that the United Nations Organization be able to answer its universal vocation.

They highly assessed the fruitful cooperation between Romania and Austria within the U.N. and other international organizations, such as the Economic Commission for Europe, the I.A.E.A., the U.N.O.I.D., the Danubian Commission, pointing to the usefulness of continuing this cooperation in the future, too.

The two sides noted with satisfaction that the visit of the State Council President Nicolae Ceausescu contributed to the further deepening of the relations between the two

countries, to the consolidation of peace and cooperation in Europe. Appreciating the usefulness of the direct meetings and contacts for a better understanding among the two states, the sides decided to continue the exchange of visits at all levels.

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DECLARATION OF THE ROMANIAN NEWS AGENCY

"AGHRIFFE" IN CONNECTION WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN JORDAN

The same as throughout the world, the recent news from the Near East aroused deep worry and anxiety among public opinion in Romania. The official communiqués, the reports of news agencies and of eye witnesses, the messages and appeals radio broadcast feature the dramatic picture of the bloody clashes taking place in Jordan for several days.

Taking place against the general background of conflicts in the Near East, the fierce battles waged in Jordan for almost a fortnight resulted in a great number of human victims, in the destruction of towns and of great material assets, of values of culture and civilization, in boundless sufferings of the peaceful population.

Public opinion in Romania expresses its profound sadness for the scope and gravity of the conflict in Jordan, as well as its compassion for those who have fallen victims to fratricidal battles, in that country. It is evident that these tragical events cannot but seriously prejudice the vital interests of the Jordan people and of the Palestine population, the cause of their fight for a free and dignified life, for the self-independent development along the path of material and spiritual progress. The immediate cessation of the fratricidal battles, the definitive ending of massacres and destructions in Jordan are an imperative demand urged by the very cause of the peaceful settlement of the conflicts in the Near East, by the cause of the security of the peoples in that area and of the international peace. Alongside of public opinion in all countries, urging the normalization of the situation in Jordan, public opinion in Romania expresses its conviction that seeking out

of a reasonable path of mutual understanding for the liquidation of the conflict between the Jordanian forces and those of the Palestine resistance is not only necessary but also possible.

The Government and the people of our country consider that, in the situation that has been created, to avoid any armed intervention from the outside, an intervention which would inevitably lead to the still more sharpening of this conflict, to the amplification of its implications for the peoples in the Near East and for the very world peace, is of essential importance.

As it was repeatedly stressed our country considers that the prolongation of war in the Near East is a permanent source of fresh and fresh conflicts and animosities, a profoundly harmful situation for the peoples in that area, which could have unforeseeable consequences for their security, the same as for the peace of all peoples. That is why, as the entire world public opinion urges, this hotbed of tension must be extinguished as soon as possible. In our country's opinion there is only one path for this, namely the path of political settlement. Romania considers that the Security Council Resolution of November 1967 is an equitable basis for the solving by political means of the Near East questions, in keeping with the major demands of the peoples in the respective region. Our country speaks up for the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the Arab occupied territories, for the observance of the territorial integrity and of the independence of all states in that region. Particularly important is the solving of the Palestine population issue, in conformity with its national interests and aspirations, this being one of the fundamental problems on which the establishment of peace in the chequered zone of the Near East depends. Such a settlement of the situation corresponds to the interests of all people of that region, to the interest of the in-

ternational life as a whole, of the cause of détente, peace and security internationally.

Public opinion in Romania considers that the continuation of the fratricidal fights in Jordan is an obstacle along the path of peaceful settlement of the Near East conflict, and brings serious prejudices to the peoples in the respective zone. It is precisely therefore that the working people of Romania express their hope that the necessary understanding and spirit of conciliation will be found in the ranks of the factors concerned for the halting of bloodshed in Jordan, for the normalization of the situation in that country.

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